ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A compressor includes a normally open discharge valve assembly for controlling compressed refrigerant flow from the discharge chamber through the compression members. This controlling of flow results in an increased performance for the compressor by reducing recompression volume and the elimination of reverse rotation at shut down. The discharge valve assembly includes a valve seat, a valve plate and a valve stop secured within a recess formed within the compressor with a wave ring retainer. The valve stop and the valve seat include a contoured surface that is engaged by the valve plate when it opens and closes. The contoured surface controls the movement of the valve plate.